

Historic Old Soldier Road Being Opened

Motorists of this area who like to combine historical interest with their outdoor travel will have an opportunity to enjoy both along a new scenic road which the U.S. Forest Service is opening up in the Hobbie Creek area.

The new road is not yet ready for travel because of recent storms, but Forest Supervisor Clarence Thornock of the Uinta Forest reports that it would be ready for travel by the middle of summer.

The new section of road can be reached by way of Hobbie Creek Canyon east of Springville. At Kelly's Grove, five miles into Hobbie Creek Canyon, a motorist must take the left fork. The road winds upward to the top of the range, and eventually joins the road down through Diamond Fork, emerging in Spanish Fork Canyon.

Historically, part of its route dates back to the time when Johnston's Army was encamped at Camp Floyd west of Lehi in Cedar Valley. It was probably the first road "built with federal funds" in the state (then territory) of Utah because the soldiers opened it in order to drive their mules to summer pasture in Strawberry Valley.

In the upper left fork, there is a large flat known as "Soldier's Flat," where the Army

men often camped to escape the summer heat of the valley.

Johnston's Army established Camp Floyd near Fairfield in the early summer of 1858, and the Army stayed there until the Civil War was declared in 1861, at which time the men were ordered out — part back east to join Union forces and part into

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PIONEER ROAD—Clarence Thornock, left, Uinta Forest supervisor, and Regional Forester Floyd Iverson stand on a new scenic road being developed by the Forest Service in Hobbie Creek Canyon along a historic route built over a century ago by soldiers of Johnston's Army.

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